Dear St Mary of the Cross Families,

It has been another busy week at SMOC, with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday being the highlights of the week.

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

Shrove Tuesday has traditionally been a day that was used to get rid of excess food before the fasting season of Lent begins. It is a Christian tradition which saw families eat pancakes as a celebratory food prior to the season of Lent which required periods of fasting.

Shrove Tuesday is now known as Pancake Tuesday when pancakes are made and eaten.

The children all participated in making pancakes and then having a snack of pancakes. The day was enjoyed by all, with nearly 300 pancakes being made throughout the day.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday is the day that Catholics believe is the start of Lent. Lent is a season of preparation before Easter (usually 40 days). During Lent we are encouraged to reflect on our lives through prayer and fasting in the hope that we can reconnect with our relationship to our God.

On Wednesday morning all the children and some parents and grandparents participated in a beautiful mass said by Fr John. The children were exceptionally well behaved and are to be commended for their reverend behavior.

**PARISH ENROLMENT MEETING**

Next Tuesday evening the Parish will hold their annual Enrolment meeting at Queen of Peace School Hall, commencing at 7.00 pm. The meeting will outline the enrolment process in the parish and enrolment packs for 2016 can be collected. If you have a prep child for 2016, you are asked to attend this meeting and collect an enrolment pack. Enrolments close at the end of term one. (28th March)

**CONGRATULATIONS**

To Fleur Griffiths (Miss Fleur) on her recent engagement to Sean and also to Natalie Collis (Ms Nat) on her engagement to Leon.

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**IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP:**

- Tuesday, 24th February - 7pm PREP Information Session at Queen of Peace, Altona Meadows
- Wednesday, 25th February - NO PREP CHILDREN
- Wednesday, 25th February - Prep Children Testing
- Wednesday, 4th March - 7pm Parents & Friends AGM
- Friday, 6th March - School Closure Day
- Monday, 9th March - Labour Day Public Holiday
- Thursday, 12th March - School Photo’s

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**Student Absence**

If you need to report that your student is absent from school you can do so by sending a text message to the following school mobile number

**M: 0497 265 795**
CARPARK
The behavior of drivers in the carpark has become an issue and parents (and grandparents) need to take note of the following information.

- The speed limit in the carpark is 5kmh – many drivers speed through the carpark when children and parents are crossing the road – this is VERY dangerous.
- If you are using the Drop Off Zone, drivers are NOT to get out of the car.
- In the Drop Off zone, children should get out of the car on the passenger side, so they do not have to get out of the car in the traffic.
- Children should be restrained in appropriate car seats at all times while the car is moving.
- If you need to park the car, please use the street carparks or the carparks provided in the school car park. Parking in the first 50 metres of the Drop off Zone is not permitted.
- In the afternoon, drivers parked in the Drop Off Zone must not leave their cars unattended.

If parents cannot abide by these simple rules that are designed to keep your children and other people safe, we will be asking the Wyndham Council to provide parking officers who will fine people for breaches of the traffic code.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS
The Parents & Friends will be arranging an Easter Raffle again this year. We would appreciate your support if you could donate any type of Easter Eggs and/or baskets to be used to make up hampers for prizes.
Donations can be left in the labelled tubs in the entry under the TV screens anytime from now until Thursday 5th March 2015.

Raffle tickets will be issued on Friday 13th March 2015 to students to help sell five tickets each at $1 per ticket. All tickets and money are to be returned to the school by Friday 20th March 2015 (More tickets will be available to those who require them). We will also donate an Easter Hamper to charity.

The raffle draw will take place at group prayer on Wednesday 25th March 2015.

Kind Regards,
St. Mary of the Cross
Parents & Friends Association

CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR
Are you looking for something fun to do this weekend? On Sunday, 22nd February there will be street festivities, cultural activities, food, lion dances and the big dragon emerging at 11.30am in Melbourne ChinaTown (Little Bourke Street)

EMMANUEL COLLEGE NEWS
Congratulations to our 2014 VCE High Achievers Hyun-Suk Shin 98.05, University of Melbourne, Science; Naomi Borg 97.4, RMIT, Project Management; Marc Elisan 97.3, University of Melbourne, Science; Sampras Trinh 97.1, Monash University, Radiography; Kerri Paskin 93.85, University of Melbourne, Commerce/Science; Maria Banica 93.6, Endeavour College, Nutritional Medicine.